

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, July 3, 1877, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Cambridge, Monday, July 3, 1877. My dear Mrs. Bell:

Thank you very much for your letter which we found awaiting us on our return home. We are so glad and thankful to hear that Mrs. Kerr is getting better and that she has such a fine boy. Mr. Kerr must be so proud and you all so pleased.

I feel as if I had not told you sufficiently what a lovely time we had with you, or what a pleasure it was to meet Alec's kind friends and relatives. I have so often thought and wondered what they were like.

We have had a pleasant journey home, though the hot weather of which you spoke pursued us even on the St. Lawrence and Alec. was of course down with a bad headache.

Who do you suppose we found on board the Steamer, but Mr. and Mrs. Chance on their way to Quebec and England. They were very pleasant and kind and introduced us to some other people on board. The Rapids were quite exciting but on the whole disappointing. At Montreal, while out driving with some gentlemen the horse ran away and we had the pleasure of being saved by Alec who happened not to be in the carriage and who caught the horse and held him though he reared and plunged fearfully.

The view from the mountain is beautiful and the city itself interesting with solid handsome houses quiet and moss grown on fresh and bright and new. Our driver was an Orangeman, who told us a long story about the riot, and further added that another Orangeman was shot at the funeral and is now dangerously ill and not expected to live. If he dies soon the driver said there would be some more fighting. We visited the Grey

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Nunnery, such an immense dreary building. The sisters seemed all very young and looked gentle and sweet under the soft black tulle shading their faces. They take care of infirm old women and men, and of little orphaned girls and boys but we were so sorry for the children. They were in two long rooms by themselves and seemed to have nothing to do but to sit and talk or go to sleep. They were all under 2 ten, and not a plaything could we see. The little boys especially crowded around us so eager to see and examine any bright pretty thing we had about us. We left Montreal Saturday at three and came through safely though we were no doubtful about our chances of reaching Boston undisturbed that Alec bought a revolver with ammunition enough to kill a hundred men he said. I think he was rather disappointed not to have a chance to show it off.

My mother has fitted up a room here for us with some of my wedding presents and it looked a so pretty I wish you could see it. We leave here probably Thursday night by Fall River Boat and sail at noon Saturday by Steamship Bolivia.

Please give my love to Mr. Bell, Mary Louise and Lizzie. I am so sorry to hear that Mrs. Ottaway has not been well but hope she is better before this.

With much Love, Affectionately your daughter, Mabel.